



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of December 16th, 2013

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Chairman
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Bosworth, Administrative Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of December 9th, 2013.

Performance Review

The Board received the review for Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring, prepared by Administrative Assistant, Michael Skorput, based on the contract that began on June 10th, 2013 and ends on June 30th, 2014. Contingent upon a favorable review by the Board, Mr. Loring's salary would increase from \$57,000.00 to \$58,500.00 as of January 1st, 2014.

The Board was in agreement that his review was excellent.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to accept the review for Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring and to increase his salary to \$58,500.00 as of January 1st, 2014.

A second review for Mr. Loring will be due in March of 2014. Upon another satisfactory review from the Board, his salary would then increase to \$60,000.00.

Clerk of the Works

Michael Skorput reported to the Board that he had spoken with a representative from MIIA in regards to John Lander, Clerk of the Works on the Foley Bridge project. Mr. Lander will be hired as a special [regular] employee which will cover him under the Town's insurance. Mr. Skorput will forward the information to Treasurer, Patricia Mielke and report back to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

It was noted that the next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will take place on January 6th, 2014.

Budgets

The Board reviewed the following Town budgets, read aloud by Chairman Yohalem:

Reserve Fund - \$50,000.00

Stabilization - \$50,000.00

School Committee Expense - \$1,500.00

Printing - \$2,700.00

Town Officers Bonds - \$1,250.00

Town Officers Expenses - \$1,000.00

All amounts were consistent with last year's budgets and were previously approved by the Finance Committee.

After a short discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the Town budgets.

Updates and Announcements

Selectman Shalaby reported that she had met with Elizabeth Olenbush to discuss new and updated solar energy options available for the Town. Mrs. Olenbush plans to speak with a contact from the town of Egremont, who has experience in this area, and will set another meeting with Selectman Shalaby at a later date.

It was noted by Michael Skorput that there was no additional information on the Land Trust sale.

Selectmen White reported that Marianne Sullivan and Betty Quinn [of Sullivan & Sullivan] visited the Town Hall to gather initial information from the Assessor's office. The Auctioneers plan to advertise the property auctions to all residents of the Town of New Marlborough and will place ads in the local newspapers, including the 5 Village News. Selectman White will be in contact with Ms. Sullivan about obtaining a written contract.

Additional Budgets

The Board reviewed the additional Town budgets that were presented during the meeting. Chairman Yohalem read them aloud as follows:

Senior Tax Workoff Expenses - \$100.00

Cultural Council - \$1,000.00

Council on Aging Expenses - \$200.00

Council on Aging Transportation - \$5,497.00

All amounts were consistent with last year's budgets and were previously approved by the Finance Committee.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the Town budgets with the exception of the Cultural Council.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by two members [Selectman Shalaby recused herself] to approve the budget for the Cultural Council.

Additional Updates and Announcements

Chairman Yohalem proposed that the Board make a site visit to the property of David Ralph, the date of which will be decided on at the next scheduled Selectmen's meeting.

In the absence of a representative from the Assessor's office, Michael Skorput gave a summary of the new tax rates which have been set \$0.18 higher than last year, at \$9.15 per \$1,000.00 assessed valuation. It was also reported that the Town is approximately \$55,000.00 under the levy limit.

Chairman Yohalem gave a summary of the Department Heads meeting that took place last Wednesday [December 11th]. The only issue that was presented at the meeting was the delay in setting the tax rate. Going forward, the Board will require that the departments responsible have all figures submitted to the Assessor by October or early November at the latest.

The Board also decided that it will be required for quarterly reports to be forwarded to the Treasurer and Accountant by the Tax Collector, to maintain the balancing of the books.

The Board reviewed the liquor licenses that were submitted for renewal from Gedney Farm, the Old Inn on the Green, the Southfield Store and the Mill River Store.

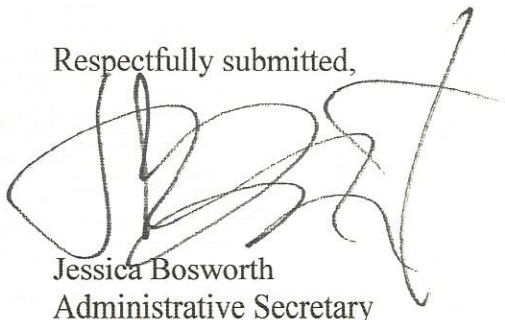
A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the off-premises license renewal for the Mill River Store.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the liquor license renewals for the Old Inn on the Green and the Southfield Store.

After a discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the renewal for Gedney Farm under the condition of the completion of necessary repairs to obtain a passing inspection from the Fire Chief and Building Inspector.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB' followed by a long, sweeping flourish.

Jessica Bosworth
Administrative Secretary